



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

June 9, 2015

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2376 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Health Task Force is writing to ask you to oppose reducing the resources available to the Medicare program through the inclusion of Medicare sequestration cuts to offset the cost of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The CCD Health Task force is not taking a position on trade policy. We recognize that the TAA is designed to provide a safety net for dislocated workers but we do not support extending the Medicare sequestration cuts to offset the cost of the program. Medicare is a lifeline for individuals over 65 and those under 65 with disabilities.

Millions of individuals with injuries, illnesses, disabilities and chronic conditions utilize Medicare to access the services and devices they need to remain healthy, functional, and live independently in their homes and communities. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), more than two thirds of Medicare beneficiaries, or about 21.4 million individuals, had at least two chronic conditions in 2010. Over 8 million Medicare beneficiaries are less than 65 years old and qualify for Medicare based on their disability status. Beneficiaries who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid often have very significant medical needs and may require more complex care.

CCD opposes the extension of sequestration cuts to Medicare that could reduce the resources available and may lead to cost-shifting to beneficiaries or decreasing benefits. We would like to urge Congress instead to focus on quality and improving health outcomes. Medicare is a critical program for people with disabilities and should not face cuts to shore up a different program.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please contact Julie Ward (ward@thearc.org).

The CCD Health Co-Chairs

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